

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2634

ANSWERED ON:10.08.2010

FRAUDS THROUGH SMS AND E MAILS

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**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether cases of cheating/fraud through e-mails and SMSs have been increasing in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases reported during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check such activities in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a) & (b): The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) does not maintain the specific information regarding cases of cheating / fraud through e-mails and SMSs. However, State/UT-wise details of cases registered and persons arrested under Fraud Digital Signature Certificate (Section 74 IT Act 2000) and cyber-crime related Sections of IPC related to forgery and criminal breach of trust during 2006-2008, as compiled by the NCRB, are as at the Annexure.

(c): In order to address the growing threat of various types of Cyber crimes in the country, Government has evolved an integrated approach with a series of legal, technical and administrative steps to ensure that necessary systems are in place to address the cyber crimes.

Under the purview of the Department of Information Technology (DIT), the Information Technology Act, 2000 as amended by the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 enforced on 27.10.2009 has been made more stringent. The Act has new provisions for dealing with various cyber crimes by way of punishments for cyber crimes such as sending offensive messages through communication services, dishonestly receiving stolen computer resource or communication device, identity theft, cheating by impersonation by using computer resource, violation of privacy, cyber terrorism, publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form, publishing or transmitting of material containing sexually explicit act in electronic form, child pornography in electronic form.

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (ICERT) scans the Indian Cyber Space to detect traces of any untoward incident that poses a threat to the cyber space. CERT-In performs both proactive and reactive roles in computer security incidents prevention, identification of solution to security problems, analyzing product vulnerabilities, malicious codes, web defacements, open proxy servers and in carrying out relevant research and development.

The Department of Information Technology (DIT) has also initiated a programme on cyber forensics, specifically development of cyber forensic tools, training of the users, particularly police and judicial officers in use of this tool to collect and analyse the digital evidence and present them in a Court of Law. Further DIT along with ICERT and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) is also involved in providing basic and advanced training of Law Enforcement Agencies, Forensic labs and judiciary on the procedures and methodology of collecting, analyzing and presenting digital evidence. The DIT has set up cyber forensic training labs at CBI and Kerala Police and is planning to set up similar facilities at four States of North East, namely Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim and Tripura.

Besides the above steps taken in general under the purview of the Department of Information Technology (DIT), the following steps have also been taken under the purview of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) to spread awareness among the public with a view to protect them from on-line frauds :-

- (i) The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had issued Press release on 6th October, 2009 clarifying that the Income Tax Department does not issue refunds online and taxpayers were advised not to fall prey to such fake e-mails.
- (ii) The advertisements have been brought out by the Directorate of Income Tax in the print media to caution the public.
- (iii) In order to spread awareness amongst the taxpayers, suitable 'caution,' messages are flashed on the National website and other websites of the Income Tax Department, through which the taxpayers are advised about the policy of the Income Tax Department not to seek information relating to Bank accounts, debit / credit cards etc.